



Facilitating the sharing and coordinated use of spatially referenced data in Delaware

**DRAFT Meeting Summary**  
**Delaware Geographic Data Committee**  
**9:00 a.m., February 13, 2002**  
**Paradee Center, Dover**

**Attendance List:**

Frank Calio – Elections  
Lisa Wragg – Elections  
Russ Larson – Leg. Council  
Paul Sample – Leg. Council  
Shelly McCoy – UD Library  
Tracy DiLiberty – UD  
Dick Sacher – UD/RDMS  
John Callahan – UD/RDMS  
John Laznik – UD  
Nicole Minni – UD/WRA  
Vern Svatos – UD/WRA  
Triphi Mathews – Public Health  
George Kent – DelDOT  
Mary Harper – SHPO  
Doyle Tiller – Facilities Management  
Pete Gerardi – Facilities Management  
Jeff Bergstrom – City of New Castle  
Debbie Pfeil – Town of Georgetown  
Larry Pomatto – DNREC  
Elizabeth Brown – DBF  
Tim Westbrook – New Castle County  
George Yocher – DPH  
Lyn Anderson – Dept. of Labor  
Mike Mahaffie – State Planning Coord.  
Robert Jordan – DGS  
Sandy Schenck – DGS  
Lillian Wang – DGS  
Debbie Sullivan – DNREC  
Michael Shuler – DEMA  
Kevin Neilson – Pub. Svc. Commission  
Carl Yetter – Del. Coastal Programs  
Tim Lucas – Del. Coastal Programs  
Scott Blaier – Dept. of Agriculture  
Roger Barlow – USGS  
Vickie Lewis – Census Bureau  
Joe Marinucci – Census Bureau

**Welcome and Introductions**

Mike Mahaffie began the meeting at 9:08 a.m. by going over the agenda and asking each person present to introduce themselves to the group.

**Information Updates**

*Ortho Photography Project*

Mike is pleased to report that the I-Team is close to finalizing and signing a contract with EarthData to fly the state to collect 1:2400 scale photos that will be converted to digital orthos. The LULC data set will also be updated in this project with a likely minimum mapping unit of 2 acres. There will be also some additional "out-year" work that will include 1:1200 scale photography in urban areas. This will most likely be funded next year.

*New USGS Contact*

Roger Barlow was introduced as the State's new USGS liaison. Roger also works with New Jersey.

*NHD Project*

Sandy Schenck and Mike Mahaffie are working with DNREC and with USGS to have the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) completed in Delaware. So far, northern Delaware has been completed and the Chesapeake basin, including parts of Delaware, is being completed. The NHD will give us additional data for the digital hydro layer we already use as our framework layer.

*Delaware DataMIL Project*

John Callahan announced that the Data Mapping and Integration Laboratory (DataMIL) website is approaching completion. The DataMIL is also a USGS National Map pilot project. The data is seamless for Delaware. There is a meeting in March in Sioux Falls (SD) where all of the National Map pilot projects will meet and discuss National Map

connectivity across the country. Governor Minner will unveil the DataMIL web site to the public on April 18th at the DE GIS2002 conference.

#### *Metadata Update*

John announced that RDMS has also been working on a new metadata clearinghouse. There will be a new mechanism to contribute metadata to the Delaware Metadata Clearinghouse by “dragging and dropping” metadata files into the clearinghouse. Hopefully this will be demonstrated at the next meeting.

#### *2002 DE GIS Conference*

The brochure will be ready to send out within about a week. The conference will also be sent out on the DGDC listserv. We have confirmation the Gov Minner will be the keynote speaker at the conference.

#### *Schools/GPS Project*

Lyn Anderson reported that 12 schools are done and more resources are up on-line. Current training efforts have fallen through and are being rescheduled.

#### *URISA GIS Certification Proposal*

The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) has proposed a voluntary GIS professional certification program. Mike prepared a one-page handout with more information (attached).

#### *Other Announcements*

Dennis Norwood has resigned his position as head of Mapping and Addressing in Sussex County. Matt Laick has taken over the job on an acting basis.

Thompson Mapping has updated the Sussex County’s CAD-based cadastral data, georeferenced it, and is working with Sussex County to help the county make a transition to GIS parcel mapping.

#### GIS and Local Government – Liz Brown (Davis, Bowen, and Freidel)

Liz Brown, who provides GIS services for several municipal governments, gave an overview of how some of the smaller town governments see, and use, GIS data. She noted that much of their interaction with GIS is related to engineering work and infrastructure management. She pointed out that the recent Livable Delaware legislation requiring comprehensive plan updates and annexation plans will lead to more small towns having usable GIS data. This work has led to the creation of tax parcel and zoning data for towns that had not had that data in GIS format in the past. She also noted that many small towns will not be in a position to use the data themselves but will continue to work with consultants and the private sector.

Liz also urged the State to continue to provide framework data to all levels of government. This will assure the quality of these important data layers.

## Framework Focus Forum

Mike explained the purpose of the forum, that Framework Focus Forums over the next several meetings will provide basic information to be used in crafting Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) between the GIS community and individual framework data stewards. The MOAs will help establish maintenance relationships and will codify data maintenance and update processes.

This first Forum focused on the Governmental Units (Boundaries) portion of the Framework, which includes State and County Boundaries, Election Districts, Census Geography, and Incorporated Places.

### *State and County Boundaries*

Robert Jordan and Sandy Schenck explained the State Boundary Commission and its role in establishing the state boundary. Sandy gave some history of Delaware's boundary and some of the unique circumstances surrounding that boundary. The State Boundary is found in Title 29, Chapter 2 of the Delaware Code.

Sandy explained that the Framework layer identified for the State boundaries is the linework from the USGS Digital Line Graph (DLG) dataset. This is the digital version of the Topographic Map Series. Sandy explained that he has checked the DLG boundaries against the locations of the monuments that mark the state boundary and found them to be quite accurate.

The picture is less clear in the case of the County Boundaries. The County boundaries are set out in a text description in Title 9, Chapter 1 of the Delaware Code. There is not, however, a body, such as the State Boundary Commission, assigned to oversee the county boundaries. The DLG lines are generally thought to be accurate and have not been found (yet) to be in conflict with the parcel data provided by the counties.

Another issue that the group will keep in mind is the divergence between the State Boundary and the state's "outline." The state boundary is that which is established by the Boundary Commission and which includes portions of the Delaware and the Atlantic Ocean. There is also, however, the need to present data in map form using the shoreline of the Delaware River, the Delaware Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean to present a cogent picture to the public. The group will eventually consider using the NHD product to provide the shoreline. Meanwhile, the DLG hydrography layer, already part of the Framework, and the water portion of the Land Use/Land Cover data set can be used.

### *Election Districts*

The General assembly is still working on the newest version of election districts in Delaware. The group will wait until that process is complete and will work with the Office of the Elections Commissioner to publish Representative and Senatorial Districts at that time.

### *Census Geography*

The Delaware Spatial Data Framework includes all of the US Census Bureau's TIGER 2000 data set, which provides block, block group, tract, and other census geography for purposes of analyzing data collected in the 2000 Census. It is generally understood that, while the TIGER data is consistent within itself it does not neatly align with the rest of the framework. It is, however, close enough for some uses.

Joe Marinucci, of the Bureau's Geography Division, explained that his office has begun looking for ways to align the Census geography with state-level framework data to alleviate this problem. He noted that, by chance, one of his first experiments was with aligning the TIGER data for Kent County Delaware with the DelDOT road Centerline file. He reported that the results were good, though they were not consistent across county lines. It was suggested by the group that the Bureau work with county cadastral data as a base. Mr. Marinucci will make contact with the individual counties to pursue this idea.

### *Incorporated Places*

Mike Mahaffie explained that there are several possible sources for Municipal Boundaries and that all have their positive and negative aspects. There are the Municipal Charters, which are approved by the General Assembly. These are likely the most legal descriptions of the boundaries but tend to lag behind municipal annexations and are only in text form. The County Cadastral data provides a very accurate representation of the municipal boundaries, though there are issues in areas where a boundaries do not follow parcel lines and in parts of the state where the cadastral data is incomplete. The Office of State Planning Coordination maintains a municipal boundaries data set that serves as a part of the Framework. This data set is based on the Office's role in reviewing annexations under the Land Use planning Act.

It was generally agreed that the cadastral data sets provide the most accurate municipal boundary reference but that the Office of State Planning Coordination data set provides a handy, statewide, version for quick use. The municipal comprehensive planning process will also provide input into the State Planning dataset.

### **Wrap Up**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

**Information Update:  
Proposed URISA Certification Program  
for GIS Professionals**

*Adapted from the web site of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)*

In October of 2001, the URISA Board unanimously approved the URISA Certification Committee's proposed schedule for public discussion, testing, evaluating, and implementation of a proposed certification program for GIS professionals. The proposal is the result of three years of debate.

URISA has released the proposal for a six-month period for public debate, a one-year pilot period for testing, and time for evaluating and revising the system prior to a final approval scheduled for the URISA Annual Conference in October 2003.

**The Certification Proposal**

The proposed GIS Certification Program is voluntary and is intended to acknowledge the GIS professional achievements of those whose primary responsibility involves the use of geospatial data technology. It is not envisioned as a program for general users of GIS technology.

The proposed GIS Certification Program consists of a point-based system that is self-documented and calculated by the individual seeking certification. **The proposal does not include an examination.** One year of prior experience is required before an individual can submit a portfolio, and a confirmation signature of the individual's employer (or certified colleague if there is no employer) is also required. All certification applications are reviewed and either accepted or rejected by a GIS Certification Board whose composition and membership are yet to be determined.

Minimum levels of achievement points are set for each of three categories of achievement:

- Educational Achievement
- Experience on the Job
- Contributions to the Profession

In addition, a certification renewal program sets minimum point requirements for continued certification every three years to encourage GIS professionals to maintain currency in geospatial technologies.

More details are available on the URISA web site at:  
[www.urisa.org/certification/2certific.htm](http://www.urisa.org/certification/2certific.htm)